Ontario Forestry Council

Second Annual Report
for the year ending
31 October, 1986

© 1987, Queen's Printer for Ontario

Printed in Ontario, Canada

Single copies of this publication are available at no charge from the address noted below. Bulk orders may involve charges.

For more information contact:

Forest Resources Branch
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
99 Wellesley St West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

Tel: (416) 965-2785

ONTARIO FORESTRY COUNCIL

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

1 November 1985 to 31 October 1986

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The Ontario Forestry Council was established by Order-in-Council in October 1984 to recommend to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, appropriate objectives, priorities and funding for research in Ontario and in particular:

a. To identify needs for forest R & D and to recommend priorities.

b. To review present forest R & D activities and to recommend, as regards to each, continuation or termination.

c. To review costs of forest R & D, to identify cost benefits and to recommend priorities and appropriate funding.

d. To recommend mechanisms for coordination of forest research and development activities in Ontario universities, the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the private sector.

e. To review research results and recommend appropriate action, and

f. To advise and make recommendation as to any other related matter referred to the Council by the Minister.

During the current year the Council was given further direction by the Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Vincent Kerrio, to coordinate forestry research in Ontario.

The present Council comprises:

Chairman

B.K. Koken

Members

Ontario Forest Industries Association

E.F. Boswell

C.J. Carter

J.E. Houghton

Ontario Lumber Manufacturers Association
M. Willick (resigned October 1986)

Universities of Guelph, Lakehead and Toronto
R.G. Rosehart

Ministry of Natural Resources
K.A. Armson
M. Mogford

Federal Government
J.H. Cayford
J.C. Mercier

Mary Mogford, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Jean-Claude Mercier, Associate Deputy Minister of Forestry, Department of Agriculture Canada, were appointed this year. The resignation of Michael Willick was accepted in October 1986 with regret, and advice on his replacement has been requested from the Ontario Lumber Manufacturers Association. Martin Walmsley's resignation as Secretary was also accepted, with recognition of his service to the Council. The new Secretary is David Fayle.

1985-1986 TOPICS

The Council held four regular and two conference call meetings during which three major topics were considered.

The first topic was a follow-up on one of last year's issues: restructuring of forestry research in Ontario. This led to the second topic of coordination of forestry research in Ontario. The third topic was the ongoing documentation and discussion of forestry research funding and expenditures.

RESTRUCTURING OF FOREST RESEARCH IN ONTARIO

In our previous report we noted that a meeting of senior level officials of the provincial and federal governments, augmented by members of Council, was to propose a firm course of action on the proposal that the cause of

forest research would be best served by uniting the provincial and federal (Great Lakes Forestry Centre) research organizations into a single research institute.

Although no agreement was reached on uniting the two organizations into a single institution, there was agreement that their programs could be more closely coordinated by giving the Council greater responsibility in that area. As a result, a recommendation was made to the Minister of Natural Resources, which he accepted, that the Council be directed to coordinate forest research in Ontario. To effect this direction, the Council was expanded to include the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and the Associate Deputy Minister of Forestry, Department of Agriculture Canada.

In July the Provincial government announced the move of the Ministry's Forest Resources Group to Sault Ste Marie. The Council saw the move of the Group's research function to Sault Ste Marie as an important step in furthering the coordination of research in Ontario and recommended to the Minister that the federal and provincial research organizations be brought together physically at that location.

COORDINATION OF FORESTRY RESEARCH IN ONTARIO

In undertaking its new mandate to coordinate forestry research in Ontario the Council initiated a survey to gather a data base and opinions on priorities for research. The survey was organized by a working group of industry, government and university representatives. A consultant was retained to assist in the creation and interpretation of the questionnaires which were sent to "users" and "doers" of research. The Council received a report summarizing the results of the survey in August; copies of this report may be obtained on request.

Forestry Research Survey

Questions in the survey to determine the opinions of forest managers and researchers focussed on: species on which research dollars should be spent; within those species, the percent of research that should be spent relative to each management activity (tree improvement and genetics, seed/stock production, regeneration, tending, protection and utilization/harvesting) and to each stage of stand development (young,

immature, mature, overmature); the perceived sufficiency of research capability currently and over the next 20 years, by management activity, in physiology, genetics, soil/site, entomology, pathology, economic analysis, and fire; and issues of highest priority. A brief summary of the findings follows.

Results showed clearly that there was remarkedly little difference of opinion between managers and researchers. The only difference occurred in rating of the overall knowledge base, where researchers rated it as less adequate for all major species than did forest managers.

The most important species to research was black spruce, followed by jack pine, poplar (aspen), white spruce, hard maple and white pine. This paralleled the ratings for economic importance. Among other species of any importance, the most inadequate knowledge base was for larch, followed by white birch and red oak.

Regeneration, tree improvement and genetics, and tending were generally perceived as the most important management activities, followed by seed/stock production, utilization/harvesting and protection. An open-ended question, however, indicated most concern with utilization/harvesting and regeneration, least with seed/stock production and tree improvement and genetics. Research emphasis should be directed at the young and immature (polewood) stages of stand development in most species.

Researchers felt that most research technologies needed for forestry research are present in Ontario, but insufficiently so, with little change expected over the next 20 years.

Ontario Forestry Research Committee

A second major initiative to expedite coordination and direction of research was the decision to form a technical committee to be called the Ontario Forestry Research Committee. The Council concluded that this Committee was to be chaired by the Vice Chairman of the Council. Subsequently the Chairman appointed C.J. Carter as Vice Chairman of the Ontario Forestry Council and Chairman of the Ontario Forestry Research Committee.

The purpose and functions of the Ontario Forestry Research Committee, taken from its terms of reference, will be "to establish the direction, priorities, execution and dissemination of forestry research with respect to the needs of forest management in the Province of Ontario.

"Recognizing the requirements of addressing both long and short term opportunities, and of having insight into the programs of the principal forestry research groups in Ontario, the Committee shall, by direction of the Ontario Forestry Council:

a. Identify and establish priorities for research.

b. Ensure effective and efficient planning and execution of research.

c. Monitor the relevancy and output of research.

d. Prescribe the initiation, continuation, changes in direction or termination of research programs.

e. Determine and recommend to funding agencies requirements for increased or decreased levels of support.

f. Establish Working Groups with specific terms of reference and specified lifetimes, that will assist the committee in the above matters.

g. Coordinate the effective communication of the results of research to forest managers and administrators through sponsorship of annual symposia and other mechanisms."

It is intended that this committee will replace the Canada-Ontario Joint Forestry Research Committee, the Great Lakes Forestry Centre Advisory Committee and the Ontario Tree Improvement and Forest Biomass Institute's Advisory Committee.

Membership on the Committee, under the chairmanship of the Vice Chairman of the Ontario Forestry Council, will include: one representative each from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Great Lake Forestry Centre, the Faculty of Forestry (University of Toronto), the School of Forestry (Lakehead University) and the Ontario Tree Improvement Council; and four representatives from forest industry.

The Committee will make its recommendations to the Council; formal establishment and functioning of the Committee will occur early next year.

FOREST RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES

Based on data prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources for the Council, approximately $9.1 million and $9.9 million were expended in 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively on forest research in the Province. This includes research by the universities and provincial and federal laboratories (excluding the latter's national institutes located in Ontario). In 1985-86 compared to the previous year, the provincial proportion of total funding decreased from 43% to 38% and the federal proportion increased from 57% to 62%. Industrial funding for research related to the establishment, growing and protection of the forest was negligible.

A comparison of the research expenditures in 1985-86 with the results of the forestry research survey indicated that tending should receive more attention.

The above figures refer to research only, not research and development. In this context, research is defined as systematic investigation carried out by means of experiment, survey or analysis to gain new scientific, technical, commercial, economic or social knowledge; development is defined as the application of scientific knowledge to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products, processes, systems or services.

The expenditure noted in last year's report for 1983-84 was $16.0 million, which was calculated from a different base. The comparable amount to the 1984-85 and 1985-86 figures would be $10 million.

Prepared by
D.C.F. Fayle, PhD
Secretary

3881
(0.5 k P.R., 87 05 25)
ISBN 0-7729-2598-X